JUN 0 3 2004 5

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

STOUT, Robert L.

Serial No.: 10/051,253

Filed: January 18, 2002

METHODS OF DETERMINING CHRONIC

HEPATITIS C INFECTION

The 8 super

Group Art Unit No. 1648

Examiner: Wortman, Donna C

Commissioner of Patents Mail Stop: Amendment Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

In response to the office action dated December 3, 2003 amendment and reconsideration of the above application is requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.